

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 FBO-02 A-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5134
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 0350

ABIDJAN FOR RSO; DAKAR FOR FBO KARR

SY FOR DIKEOS; S/CCT FOR FEARNEY; FBO FOR RALSTON; AF/EX
FOR KRYZA

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A DECONTROL 28 FEBRUARY 1#38

TAGS: ASEC ABLD AFSP MR FR

SUBJECT: NOUAKCHOTT PERIMETER WALLS

REF: 75 NOUAKCHOTT 2641 (NOTAL), 75 NOUAKCHOTT 1375 (NOTAL),
NOUAKCHOTT 319 (NOTAL), ALGIERS 359 (NOTAL)

1. THE FACT THAT THE ALGIERIAN GOVERNMENT FOR PURELY POLITICAL PURPOSES HAS CHOSEN TO EXAGGERATE A SERIOUS BUT LIMITED SECURITY PROBLEM INTO A MAJOR PUBLIC ORDER ISSUE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ALLOWED TO OBSCURE ONE OF THE BASIC FACTS OF THE FRENCH CASE: THERE IS NO PERIMETER WALL AROUND THE LARGE FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICE BUILDING/RESIDENCE COMPOUND, AND HENCE THERE IS NO WAY TO CONTROL INFILTRATORS WITH MALICIOUS INTENT. THE TWO FORCED ENTRIES ON TWO SUCCESSIVE NIGHTS LAST WEEK RESULTED IN A VANDALIZED OFFICE AND A BURNED OUT ROOM IN A RESIDENCE. IN ADDITION TO THESE MOST RECENT INCIDENTS, THERE HAVE BEEN A

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SERIES OF SUCCESSFUL BREAKING AND ENTERING ROBBERIES

ON THE FRENCH COMPOUND--TWELVE DURING CALENDAR YEAR
1975.

2. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS TAKEN EVERY POSSIBLE
OCCASION SINCE HIS ARRIVAL HERE TWO AND A HALF YEARS
AGO TO REITERATE THE NEED FOR A PERIMETER WALL AND TO
PRESS PARIS FOR THE FUNDS REQUIRED. PARIS HAS CON-
SISTENTLY TURNED A DEAF EAR.

3. SO FAR THE U.S. MISSION IN NOUAKCHOTT HAS BEEN
LUCKY. NO ONE OF MALICIOUS INTENT HAS YET STEPPED OVER
OUR NOW TWENTY-TWO INCH HIGH COMPOUND PERIMETER WALL. BUT FOUR
MONTHS OF GOOD FORTUNE (SEE 75 NOUAKCHOTT 2194-NOTAL) DO NOT
GUARANTEE FUTURE TRANQUILITY. I KNOW THAT THE USG, UNLIKE THE GOF,
IS NOT DEAF ON THE SUBJECT OF PERIMETER WALLS, BUT THE WHEELS
OF THE USG SURELY GRIND EXCEEDINGLY SLOW.HANDYSIDE

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